

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3634
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
OIL EXPLORATION IN MAHANADI BASIN
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether oil exploration in the Mahanadi basin has been abandoned;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the expenditure incurred so far on the exploration work in Mahanadi basin;
- (d) whether any foreign company has offered to continue exploration there; and
- (e) if so, the decision of the Government on the proposal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Information is being collected & will be laid on the Table of the House.
- (d) & (e): One foreign company namely M/s. Niko Resources Ltd. Canada, in a consortium with an Indian company M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has signed the Production Sharing Contract for one block, namely MN-DWN-98/2 in Mahanadi deep water offshore area.